

MAN AND MONEY MISSING.

Tennessee's Treasurer Runs Away With Four Hundred Thousand Dollars.

The State Treasury Bankrupted—Intense Excitement in Nashville.

The Defaulter a Simon Pure Democrat of Well-Known "Blue-Blood Stock."

His Supposed Whereabouts—Something About His Bondsmen.

Special Dispatch.

NASHVILLE, TENN., Jan. 5.—The joint committee appointed by the legislature to-day reported Marsh T. Polk, state treasurer, a defaulter in the sum of \$400,000. Polk was elected as a democrat six years ago, and served one term without renewing his bond, which is only \$100,000. During this time he has at various times had large sums of money in his possession, but no wrong was suspected. Two years ago the legislature levied a tax to pay the interest on certain funded bonds, and the tax collected amounted to \$300,000. Before he could pay this amount over to the creditors parties opposed to the settlement filed an injunction, and the supreme court declared the act unconstitutional. Since then the money has been in the treasurer's hands, and to-day the investigation committee discovered that \$400,000 or more of it is missing. Mr. Polk's clerk refuses to explain until his chief is present, but admits there is a deficit of at least \$400,000. Parties who funded their bonds under the recent city act expected to get their interest out of this sum, but on the first of January Mr. Polk refused to pay them, alleging that the people were opposed to the money being appropriated that way. Since then he has left the city, and this last discovery explains why he refused. The money was gone. Both branches of the legislature passed a resolution authorizing the attachment of all of Polk's available assets and placing the treasury in the hands of the committee, and also taking steps for his arrest. Polk left the city three days ago, and it is rumored that he has gone to Mexico and South America, and also late to-night that he has been arrested in Houston, Texas. The latest information shows he is probably still in Tennessee, but is endeavoring to make his escape. He has been a temperate man for years, but of late has been despondent and drinking heavily. He had large sums of money deposited in different banks in the state, which he drew out in the last few days. Polk's friends say he lost the money on Wall street. Marsh T. Polk is a nephew of ex-President James K. Polk, and consequently a member of one of the first families in Tennessee. His disfigure falls very heavily upon his family, who have always moved in the best society, particularly his aunt, the venerable widow of James K. Polk, who resides here. Polk has ten securities, and they will be held for \$100,000, the amount of his bond. The examination of his books is in progress at the capitol to-night, and the indications are that four hundred thousand dollars will not cover the amount of his shortage. There may be sums of the state's money deposited in banks, but if so, it has not yet been found. The safe in his office was searched this morning and found to contain nearly six thousand dollars. There is a difference of thirty thousand dollars between Polk's books and the books of a bank of this city.

By Associated Press.

NASHVILLE, Jan. 5.—An announcement was made from the state capitol this morning of the deficit in the state treasury, and it produced a genuine sensation throughout the city. The following is the report of the legislative committee on the subject: The joint select committee to settle with the comptroller and treasurer report that they have visited the office of the treasurer, and upon inquiry find the treasurer is away from the capitol and has been for two days, and they are not advised when he will return. The clerk states that he cannot go into the settlement of the treasurer's accounts until his return. They also have information from the bondsmen, or some of them, that the condition of the treasury is such that they feel justified in recommending that the workings of the treasury be stopped until an examination can be had. The senate adopted the following joint resolution:

Whereas the senate has reason to believe that M. T. Polk, the treasurer of the state, has defaulled about \$400,000; and whereas the bond given by said officer is not sufficient in amount to secure the said deficit; and

Resolved, by the senate and house of representatives, That the attorney general of the state be, and he is hereby instructed to cause to be levied on the available assets belonging to said M. T. Polk, provided that sufficient grounds exist to the end that the same may be held for the satisfaction of said deficit.

THE STATE TREASURER'S OFFICIAL BOND was for \$100,000. His bondsmen are William M. and A. R. Duncan, of Newell, Duncan & Co., brokers, Max Sax, cashier of the Nashville Savings Bank, William Morrison, former state treasurer, Will Polk, and J. E. Carpenter, all of Nashville; and J. K. Polk, F. T. Allison, and R. P. Cole, of West Tennessee, and A. S. Hensley, of Columbia. At the last extra session of the legislature a bill was introduced to increase the bond of the state treasurer, but the bill was stolen from the desk of the clerk of the senate the night before it was to come up for final passage, and the day before the time fixed for the first adjournment of the legislature. The amount of deficit in the treasury cannot be accurately ascertained until after thorough investigation. One of the bondsmen, who has been examining their accounts, says they show that there is a deficit of \$250,000. The same bondsmen says the treasurer's books and account at one of the banks show a discrepancy of over \$30,000. Just before Christmas it is said.

HE DREW OUT OF THE BANK

of Pulaski, \$5,000. The state funds were distributed in the various banks at Nashville, Knoxville, and Memphis. The missing funds are supposed to have been lost in speculation or loaned to personal friends engaged in speculation in bonds and stocks. Treasurer Polk left Nashville Wednesday and was last heard of at Milan, Tenn., from which point he wrote back that he would return Sunday. His family here do not know of his whereabouts. Treasurer Polk is fifty-one years old, a graduate of West Point, and served four years on the frontier. He was captain of artillery in the confederate army, in Chattanooga's division. He lost a leg at the battle of Shiloh. He afterwards served on the staff of Gen. Leavelle Polk, to whom he was related. After the war he resided on a farm near Holly Springs, until elected treasurer six years ago. He was a nephew of the late President Polk. He has a large family, and occupied a high social position in this city and the state.

Col. Polk left the city Wednesday afternoon by the Northwestern train with a trunk checked for Milan, Tenn. A letter dated Milan, January 4, was received from him by his clerk, Mr. Fleming, last night. Gov. Hawkins, in reply to an inquiry if steps would be taken for his apprehension, said no application had been made for his arrest, and his action will depend upon the character of

the application when made. The books in the treasurer's office are in good condition, and the only question is as to the amount of the deficit, which can be easily ascertained at to-morrow's investigation.

ATTORNEY GENERAL BREWSTER

Appears as Counsel for the Western Union Telegraph Company.

HARRISBURG, Jan. 5.—The suit against the Western Union Telegraph company was argued to-day before the attorney general of the state. Gen. Swayne made a lengthy speech, claiming that no law had been violated. Benjamin Harris Brewster spoke very briefly for the company. He said that the case had been so thoroughly and clearly presented by Gen. Swayne that there was very little left for him to say. Taking up the paper book of the plaintiff, Mr. Brewster wanted to know what it was. "Is it for a bill in equity?" he asked, "or a writ of quo warranto?" I can't tell. In all my experience I never saw a paper like it. He then asked that the company had a right to have a party as complainant in this matter. They came here to meet those whom it is alleged have been aggrieved, but they did not find them. Should there not be some one here to call this corporation to account? This is a serious matter, and if the company has been committing a great public wrong, some person should say so under oath. The alleged complainants may be foreigners. The aggrieved should be Pennsylvania's subjects; none other. He admitted the policy of competition, but held that when an attempt was made to reform any alleged abuses, the commonwealth should be careful not to destroy its existence, which this proceeding was calculated to do. The constitution, he admitted, prohibited the consolidation of competing telegraph companies, but at the same time it left the penalty and method for a violation to the legislature. That body, he claimed, had not provided a penalty, and, consequently, without an existing remedy, there could be no action. Mr. Brewster also took up the Pennsylvania telegraph case, decided by the United States supreme court, and held that under that decision and the congressional privilege of interstate commerce they had a perfect right to transact business in state. The regulation of any wrong must be through legislation. He claimed, as did Gen. Swayne, that the Western Union company had proved a great blessing to the public.

Samuel Dickson, of Philadelphia, followed for the plaintiff, and cited a great many cases to sustain the position taken by Mr. Pettit. During his argument Attorney General Palmer asked the opinion of Mr. Dickson relative to charters of incorporation granted prior to the framing of the new constitution. His reply was that they were only so far from being void as that they were as valid as the American Union company came into existence after the Western Union. He was responsible for purchasing it. He testified of Norwin Green, president of the company, to show that the American Union was to get it out of the way as a competitive line.

John R. Reed, of Philadelphia, closed the argument for the plaintiff by reading a paper, signed by a number of citizens of Philadelphia, to show that the assertions of Attorney General Palmer relative to their being no plaintiff in the matter were not well founded. The argument of the case consumed the entire afternoon, and at its conclusion Attorney General Palmer took the papers and reserved his decision.

DEATH'S DOINGS.

Gen. Chanzy, of France, and Other Noted People Pass Away.

PARIS, Jan. 5.—Gen. Chanzy, the well known French general and life senator, died suddenly last night.

General Chanzy will be buried at Chalons. All the evening papers deplore his death, uniting his memory with that of Gambetta, the latter being described as the soul and Chanzy as the sword of resistance to German invasion.

The *Sole* states that Gen. Chanzy had been selected as generalissimo in the event of a mobilization of the French army.

PARIS, Jan. 5.—The *Times*, in a leading article this morning, says: The death of Gen. Chanzy, following so quickly that of M. Gambetta, must disturb many political calculations, and will increase the uncertainty prevailing as to the immediate prospects of French political parties.

CHICAGO, Jan. 5.—Charles Gossage, the pioneer of dry goods merchants of this city, died early this morning.

QUINCY, Jan. 5.—Edward Davis Weld died at his home here this morning. He was well known in the iron business throughout the country, having been for many years proprietor of the Phoenix iron works in Trenton, N. J.

Ocean Steamer Arrivals.

NEW YORK, Jan. 5.—Nymph, from Mediterranean ports; Adriatic, from Liverpool; Rhineland, from Cardiff; Pomona, from Montego Bay.

LIVERPOOL, Jan. 5.—Discoverer, from New Orleans; Desonda, from New Orleans; Quaker, from New Orleans.

SOUTHAMPTON, Jan. 5.—General Werder, from Baltimore for Bremen.

QUINCY, Jan. 5.—Bohnia, from New Orleans.

HAYES, Jan. 5.—Chancellor, from New Orleans.

Two Murderers Hanged.

MILTON, ONT., Jan. 5.—Michael O'Rourke, who murdered the old man Mohr and his daughter in Nelson township, Holton county, in January last, was hanged at 10 o'clock this morning. He was firm to the last, but made no statement on the scaffold. Father O'Reilly saying a few words in his behalf. Over a score of people witnessed the execution, which was carried out without a single difficulty.

GALVESTON, TEXAS, Jan. 5.—A special to the *News* from Paris says Isaac Scott was hanged to-day for the murder of Joe Spears.

Abandoned.

CAMDEN, N. J., Jan. 5.—William H. Groves, who was held to bail at the last term of court for embezzling the funds of the Prudential life insurance company, and for forging names to vouchers, absconded a day or two ago, leaving his family in a destitute condition. He was an agent for Metropolitan life insurance company when he left, and it is supposed that his accounts with that company are also short. Thomas Scull, employed by the same company, has also disappeared.

The Suez Canal and the Powers.

PARIS, Jan. 5.—Referring to the circular of Lord Granville, British secretary of state for foreign affairs, inviting the powers to recognize definitely the free navigation of the Suez canal by the ships of all nations, the *Temps* to-day says it shall not at present attempt to disturb the discussion of the circular will be received with satisfaction.

Tendered a Reception.

CHICAGO, Dec. 5.—Miss Emily Faithful and Miss Kate Pattison, of the Langtry troupe, were tendered a reception this evening by Mrs. Dr. Sarah Hanchett Stevenson. It was a brilliant affair, at which leading society ladies of the city were present, and many others were costly floral tributes.

A White and Black Case.

BOSTON, Jan. 5.—In the case of Jane White (colored) against George Spofford (white) for \$5,000 damages for breach of promise of marriage, judgment was given for the defendant to-day.

Nominations for Mayor.

BUFFALO, N. Y., Jan. 5.—The R. R. Hefford, who is now president of the common council, was nominated for mayor by the republican caucus.

FOREMOST IN FRANCE.

Gen. Grant Thinks Gambetta Was the Great Man of His Time in His Country.

He Alone Preserved the Republican Idea in McMahon's Time.

Great Though He Was, There Are Other Great Men Who Will Fill His Place.

Representative Hitt's Recollections of the Man—Scenes in Paris.

GEN. GRANT AND GAMBETTA.

Gen. Grant and Gambetta were personal friends, as well as statesmen of the same general beliefs and purposes. Remembering this, THE NATIONAL REPUBLICAN asked the General for his estimate of the great French republican whose death is just now a considerable topic in Europe and America. Pushing aside some letters and papers before him, as he sat in Gen. Beale's parlor, the General said: "I regard Gambetta as the foremost man of his time in France. I found him to be a very different sort of man from the Gambetta of whom I had read in the papers. I had made up my mind that he was one whose basis of belief was 'whatever is wrong, without having any plan to replace the wrong. But I found that he always knew exactly what he wanted, and as an editor worked toward his ideal, knowing that he could not get all he wanted. His strength with the people lay in the fact that they had the utmost confidence in him, and had never seen him wavering. There was a Frenchman, and there formed the acquaintance of Gambetta, McMahon was president of the republic. McMahon was never a republican, and he honestly believed that the people of France were not ready for a republic. He was a Frenchman who could raise a great cry without being strong in numbers. They remind me, when I recall that clamor, of the wolves I used to hear when riding across northern Texas. He was a man of great energy, and he was sitting on their haunches and giving their whole attention to howling. Unfortunately for McMahon, he believed the clamor against a republican form of government was a great deal stronger than it was, and he made the change of officers all over France, turning out the prefects and postmasters, in the belief that he was giving the people what they wanted sooner than they could get it. The power to order an election was in his hands as president, and so the people were chafing under the removal of the men who represented them. At this juncture, when a popular election was imminent, Gambetta showed his leadership. He told the people to be quiet and patient—to wait—and when it came time to go to the polls to go there and express themselves. You will remember that he had everything in his hands, and he was always ready to give up his position to the kind of government they wanted. He lived to see it firmly established, and he died with the belief that he had done his duty. He was a man of great energy, and he was sitting on their haunches and giving their whole attention to howling. Unfortunately for McMahon, he believed the clamor against a republican form of government was a great deal stronger than it was, and he made the change of officers all over France, turning out the prefects and postmasters, in the belief that he was giving the people what they wanted sooner than they could get it. 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